

LONG ISLAND FORUM



Glen Cove's Oldest Habitation (Right Wing)

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FORUM**

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PAUL BAILEY, Publisher-Editor
Contributing Editors
Clarence A. Wood, LL.M., Ph.D.
John C. Huden, Ph.D.
Robert R. Coles
Julian Denton Smith, Nature

Tail of an Indian

I wonder if any of your readers
remember a little Indian boy who
used to live at Southold in 1880.
We did a lot of swimming, clothed
as nature had clothed us and this
boy had a tail at the base of his
spine. His mother had made a
pocket inside his pants to carry the
tail. I have read that such append-
ages were found on the Igorot na-
tives of the Philippines as late as
1917.

L. L. Glover
Eustis, Florida.

Note: Mr. Glover, who is secre-
tary of The Commongood League,
is a native of Southold, and one of
11 children of William H. H.
Glover.

Glen Cove's Early Years

The oldest home in the City of
Glen Cove, as shown on the cover,
is now the small east (right) wing
of a dwelling standing at 34 The
Place. It was the original habita-
tion of Robert Coles (1648-1715),
one of the "Five Proprietors" of
the area purchased by permission
of Governor Richard Nicolls from
the Matinecock Indians in 1668.

The four other proprietors of
what was known as Musketa Cove
were: the leader Joseph Carpenter,
Robert Coles' brothers Nathaniel
and Daniel, and Nicholas Simpkins.

Glen Cove's oldest thoroughfare,
The Place, a name that has per-
sisted for more than 300 years,
was "the place" of original settle-
ment in which the five proprietors
located their homes.

It is not generally known per-
haps that Musketa Cove, which lay
between the towns of Hempstead
and Oyster Bay, existed as a dis-
tinct town until the creation of
Queens County in 1683—a matter
of some fifteen years. According
to Robert Coles, a descendant of
the founder of that name, in his
Story of Glen Cove in Bailey's
Long Island history (1949): "They
had their own town government,
Constable, Overseers, Justice of the

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The English Conquest of 1664

Paul Bailey

Suffolk County Historian

THE English conquest of New Netherlands in 1664 brought all Long Island for the first time under the jurisdiction of a single nation. Having on March 12, 1664 granted the area to his brother James Duke of York, notwithstanding prior Dutch claims thereto, Charles II gave royal support to the surprise naval drive upon New Amsterdam.

By then Long Island was the most predominantly English part of the Dutch province. Also, it had become relatively important in industry. Hempstead farmers were raising cattle on their grassy plains. East-enders were engaged in shore-whaling. Shipyards stood at several points along the north shore. Grist and saw mills dotted the island. Cordwood was being shipped to mainland ports. Farming and fishing were being developed, and mercantile trade with the West Indies was expanding.

Unlike the mainland, Long Island had no serious trouble with its redskin inhabitants. Following the invasion of the west end by off-island tribes in the early 1640's, Indian disturbances were unknown here. Tribal life disappeared in most quarters as bucks and squaws accepted employment from their white neighbors. Although provincial laws prohibited the enslavement of redskins, their offspring from intermarriage with imported negro slaves were born to slavery. Furthermore, Indians legally bound themselves and their children for long periods to white employers under conditions which amounted to slavery.

Peter Stuyvesant (1647-1664), last of the Dutch governors, encountered ever growing opposition from his English constituents on western Long Island, while their countrymen to the east continued to recognize the authority of New England. At the same time, however, the English towns lying to the east of Oyster Bay were almost completely autonomous, governed by their own town meetings and looking to their mother colony beyond the Sound only in times of need.

Stuyvesant, described in Thomp-

son's History (1839) as "a brave and honest man," considered Long Island the hotbed of his jurisdictional troubles and treated it accordingly. "We derive our authority from God and the West Indies Company," he told one delegation seeking concessions, "not from the pleasure of a few ignorant subjects." Although he maintained a farm at Amersfort (Flatlands), he let it be known that he wanted no more New Englanders founding communities within his jurisdiction. In the words of Dixon Ryan Fox, Stuyvesant "soon realized that New England ideas might undermine the sound health of his province, as he saw it."

A Long Islander who contributed to Stuyvesant's worries was John Scott, one of America's earliest international swindlers. Scheming his way up from blacksmith and town appraiser at Southampton, he eventually obtained an audience with Charles II to whom he misrepresented himself as the island's largest landowner and most influential civilian. Returning from

abroad with the further misrepresentation of having received the King's appointment as "president" of Long Island he confronted Stuyvesant with an ultimatum to relinquish any and all claims to the island but "graciously" granted the one-legged ex-soldier a full year in which to arrange the transfer.

Meanwhile Scott, successively adopting the ranks of captain, colonel and general, came to loggerheads with Governor John Winthrop of Connecticut whose charter of 1662 had awarded all Long Island to that commonwealth. Jailed at Hartford as an imposter by the irate Winthrop, Scott escaped, returned to the island and renewed his activities until forced to flee to the West Indies, a fugitive from English justice.

Among those who had a hand in Scott's ultimate undoing here was Capt. John Underhill, "Gentleman Soldier of Fortune." Famed chiefly for his military exploits, he nevertheless contributed in numerous other ways to the development of the island generally and as much as any man paved the way for the English conquest of 1664.

It was during Stuyvesant's ad-



The Bowne House, Flushing
From an Old Sketch in the Phelps Stokes Collection

ministration that the Quakers, organized as the Society of Friends in England by George Fox in 1645, first appeared on Long Island. Robert Hodgson, leader of a small band of Quaker missionaries, was arrested at Hempstead for preaching on the Sabbath and turned over to Stuyvesant who banished him from the province. Other arrests followed and on December 27, 1657, twenty-six freeholders of Flushing, with two from Jamaica, drew up an instrument, since known as the Flushing Remonstrance, condemning the Governor's attitude and demanding religious freedom for any and all faiths.

When Sheriff Tobias Feake, Edward Heart, Flushing's town clerk, and two others presented the Remonstrance to Stuyvesant, a rigid Calvinist, he had the delegation thrown into jail and removed Feake from office. This created a great deal of public sympathy for the Quakers and brought them many converts.

One of these converts was John Bowne of Flushing, who, having married the deposed sheriff's daughter, Hannah Feake, became a Quaker preacher as did his wife. When the Bownes used their new home, completed in 1661, for Quaker meetings, Stuyvesant had Bowne brought to New Amsterdam and placed in solitary confinement. Refusing to either pay a fine or disassociate himself from the Quakers, the Flushing preacher was eventually shipped off to Holland to stand trial.

There he was exonerated by the Dutch authorities who, in sending a stiff reprimand to Stuyvesant, included what amounted to a proclamation of religious freedom for the colony. The Bowne House in Flushing, preserved and open to the public, is rightfully called "A Shrine to Religious Freedom".

To validate his grant of future New York State, the Duke of York agreed to pay the grandson of the late Earl of Stirling 3,500 pounds for release of Long Island which had been granted the Earl twenty-eight years before. No part of the amount, however, was ever paid, according to most historians. To enforce York's proprietorship of the province, Charles II appointed

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The Legend of Money Hill

Douglas Tuomey

AS I am sure most people will understand, it is an absolutely fascinating and absorbing experience to track down old tales about buried treasure and the rascals who hid it, particularly when some glimmer of fact shows itself through the clouds of available information; but it is still a greater satisfaction to hear about these things from one who actually did find buried wealth, though modest, and the indications of a yet greater and no doubt recovered store.

On Fire Island, about two miles west of Cherry Grove and not far from where one of the old life-saving stations once stood, there stands an unusually high sand dune close to the shore of Great South Bay. This dune was old a hundred years ago, and no doubt survived the constant shift and change so characteristic of the island because of an unusually heavy growth of well-rooted bayberry shrubs and stunted holly trees. Long ago this dune was quite near the ocean side of the island, but due to the well-known fact that Fire Island is constantly being eaten away on the bay side and built up by the sea on the ocean side, the dune is now far from the sea.

One day, more than sixty years ago, a member of the life-saving crew stationed nearby spent his off hours gathering berries from the bushes which grew in abundance near his post. Having filled his pails he was returning, and in so doing skirted the base of this high and thickly matted hill. As he plodded through the sand the tip of his boot struck something which gave off a metallic sound. Stopping and looking back in his tracks, he found himself staring at a round, gold coin. Setting down his pails he knelt and picked up the coin. Pocketing it, he swept the sand gently with his hand and there was another, but this time silver.

Now the man who found these coins was not local to the South Shore, and therefore not familiar with the numerous legends and tales which have been so often repeated to the children of the local inhabitants, so upon his return to

the station he confronted the captain of the post, and holding out the coins in the palm of his hand, remarked that some one must have a hole in his pocket.

The captain, on the contrary, was a local man whose family had lived for generations on the island or across the bay from it, and looking at the coins and the dates on them, he knew there was but one answer.

All that afternoon, all the next morning and well into the evening, the entire crew of the station dug and dug. One more silver coin alone rewarded them, and the rusted hinge of what may have been a sea-chest. Finally they gave up, and although one or two of the men would occasionally spend an hour probing around the hill, nothing further was found, until several months later when another strange discovery threw them into renewed activity.

The second find was made by the twelve-year old son of the station's captain. This boy was clamming along the bay shore, practically in the shadow of the big hill, when his rake struck a submerged root and became entangled. In his efforts to free it, he noticed that the prongs seemed to be hitting against something very hard, and not like the soft, spongy wood of the root; so feeling down under the water with his hand, he found

the rim of what he presumed was a pail. With the practical experience of a boy brought up as he had been, he did not attempt to drag out the root but proceeded to undermine it and free the object. He worked patiently, and finally with all his young strength strained, he lifted up an iron pot completely filled to the brim with huge copper coins.

Within an hour the boy's father and two other men were on the scene and carefully examining the coins. They were all English, dated in the late 1600's and early 1700's. There were four or five silver coins mixed with the coppers, but not of any great value, and plainly there by mistake, as people did not hoard copper even many years ago.

This second find, so close to the big dune, told the boy's father as plainly as though it was written out for him, that somewhere near here a vast operation had once taken place. Whether or not it had been retrieved was the question. Were the first gold and silver coins the result of spillage while a hasty uncovering was taking place? Was the iron pot filled with copper coins left behind as not worth the effort of carrying, or was there treasure still here and being missed by inches?

Three days more were spent in search, this time by rodding, or pushing down light iron rods



Sand Dunes on the Beach

Legend of Money Hill

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through the shallow water near the dunes, but each thrust went easily, and then they stopped.

The captain christened the dune "Money Hill" and there are still alive a score of old men who remember the affair. The hill is still there, two miles west of Cherry Grove, for any one who is interested.

That is such an extremely interesting article about the Burr-Hamilton duel (East Hampton Sermon Went Far, Dr. Charles A. Huguenin, April Forum). I never remem-

ber hearing of the part Rev. Lyman Beecher's sermon played in the aftermath of the terrible affair. (Miss) Frances Irvin, New York.

Just cannot be happy without the Forum. Henry J. Bishop, Patchogue.

The Captains Price

The three boats owned by Captains Thomas and Frank Price were the Eugene Price, the Ranger, and the Estelle. I think the latter was sold to the British at the start of World War I to serve as a mine sweeper. My father was cook on the Estelle for many years under his uncle, Captain Eliger Tallman.

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English Conquest of 1664

Continued from page 124

as commissioners Richard Nicolls, Sir Robert Carr, George Cartwright and Samuel Maverick with instructions to take possession in the Duke's name. To accomplish this, an expedition of several warships and 450 troops under Nicolls' command left Portsmouth, England, on May 15, 1664 and after a stop at Boston to mobilize the New England colonies, it arrived off New Amsterdam about three months later.

On August 20, Nicolls sent an ultimatum to Governor Stuyvesant who capitulated six days later, the terms being ratified September 6, 1664. Thus New Amsterdam and New Netherlands became respectively the city and the province of New York with Richard Nicolls as governor. Notwithstanding the protests of Connecticut which claimed eastern Long Island, with some justification, and wanted the entire island, Nicolls insisted that it must go to the Duke and thus it was settled.

Nicolls lost no time in calling upon the towns to elect two delegates each to attend a provincial convention which is known to history as the Hempstead Assembly. It convened in that town on the last day of February 1665 and in a series of sessions lasting ten days adopted a set of statutes that are rightly called The Duke's Laws. Prepared in advance by Nicolls, he steam-rollered them through to adoption and capped it off by forcing the delegates to express their "humble submission" to said laws.

The delegates to this convention were:

Southold, William Wells and John Youngs; Southampton, Thomas Topping and John Howell; East Hampton, Thomas Baker and John Stretton; Huntington, Jonas Wood and John Ketcham.

Hempstead, John Hicks and Robert Jackson; Oyster Bay, John Underhill and Mathias Harvey; Jamaica, Daniel Denton and Thomas Benedict; Flushing, Elias Doughty and Richard Cornhill; Newtown, Richard Betts and John Coe.

Brooklyn, Henrick Lubbertsen and John Evertsen; Bushwick, John

Steelman and Guisbert Tunis; Flatbush, John Striker and Hendrick Gucksen; Flatlands, Elbert Elbertson and Roeloffe Martense; Gravesend, James Hubbard and John Bowne; New Utrecht, Jaques Cortelleau and Younger Hope, and Westchester, Edward Jessup and John Quimby.

The convention erected the shire of York, or Yorkshire, dividing it into three "ridings" as follows: East Riding, present Suffolk County; West Riding, Newtown, present Kings County, and Staten Island, and North Riding, the rest of Long Island and also Westchester.

The Governor appointed a high sheriff for Yorkshire and a deputy sheriff for each of the Ridings. Justices of the peace were likewise appointed, but the towns were empowered to elect a constable and eight overseers who served as assessors and with the constable constituted the town's governing body. Two overseers and the constable comprised the town court with the justice of the peace, the governor's appointee, presiding.

Overseers served as jurors for the Court of Assizes, and also for the Court of Sessions which later, made up of the justices of the peace, met semi-annually. Assizes, the highest tribunal, composed of the Governor, his council, the high sheriff, and the justices of the peace (all gubernatorial appointees), con-

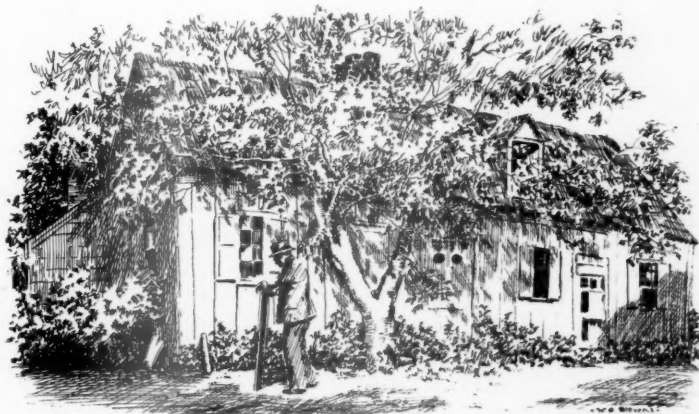
vened annually. Through this court the Governor had unlimited power to make, amend and repeal laws as he saw fit.

When in 1668 Nicolls resigned as governor and returned to England, he was succeeded by Col. Francis Lovelace whose policy towards the people, as expressed in his own words, was "to lay such taxes upon them as may not give them liberty to entertain any other thoughts but how they shall discharge them." His governorship, however, terminated quite unexpectedly on August 8, 1673, when a Dutch fleet landed 600 troops on Manhattan, took over the city without bloodshed, and made Lovelace a prisoner of war.

Captain Anthony Colve, the Dutch commander, assumed the governorship, renamed New York, New Orange, and set about endeavoring to enforce his authority throughout the province. Eastern Long Island, however, proved the greatest stumbling block to the new regime, annexing itself to Connecticut until the Dutch voluntarily relinquished all claims to the entire province after about a year of occupation.

On June 29, 1674, Charles II granted a new charter to James Duke of York, and on the following October 31, a new governor, Major Edmund Andros, took office. Forcing the recalcitrant east end towns to relinquish their ties with Connecticut, much against their desire and that of Connecticut, he soon let it be known to all

Continued on next page



Job Wright's House of Stuyvesant's Time, Still Stands, Greatly Remodelled, at Oyster Bay. (From sketch by William O. Stevens)

English Conquest of 1664

Continued From Page 127

towns and to his constituents generally that he intended to be the boss in all things political.

Glen Cove's Early Years

Continued from page 122

Peace and Recorder. They held town meetings and elected their own town officers * * *. Mr. Coles, an astronomer, historian and public speaker of note, has in his possession the ancient gravestone of his ancestor, rescued some years ago from a local industrial development.

The community retained the Indian name of Musketa Cove, although variously spelled, until 1834. Then it was decided that the name, meaning, according to Tooker's Indian Place-Names on Long Island, "place of rushes", was too reminding of the pesky insects. At a public meeting when some citizen suggested that it be changed to Glen-coe, this Scottish name was accidentally recorded as Glen Cove, and thus it has remained.

Island's Largest Display

Ira J. Friedman, 215 Main Street, Port Washington, who has the largest display of Long Island books, maps and other material, is selling Historic Long Island in Pictures, Prose and Poetry at list price exclusively in that territory.

—Adv.

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Job's Lane, Southampton

Job's Lane in Southampton received its name from Job Sayre whose cows, away back in 1664, began wearing a path from his barnyard down to the pond for a drink on their way to pasture. This opened a way for horse and wagon travel and as Sayre's lands were sold home sites appeared on the ready-made street. Today Job's Lane is one of Southampton's busy thoroughfares.

Circassian Story

We have enjoyed reading the article "Wreck of the Circassian in 1876" by Dr. Charles A. Huguenin in the August 1956 issue of the Long Island Forum. W. M. Williamson, curator of Marine Gallery, Museum of the City of New York.

The June Forum came today and I didn't lay it down until I had read it from cover to cover. This is my third year as a subscriber and I find it most interesting and enjoyable. (Miss) Carrie Moore, Hempstead.

Visitors Welcome

The General Museum-Library of the Suffolk County Historical Society, at Riverhead, is open daily (except Sundays and Holidays) from one to five P. M.

Visitors always welcome (no charge) at this educational institution where items connected with Long Island's history, culture and natural sciences are on display.

Enjoy the Forum so much. Every number has something of special interest for me. Mrs. Eva N. Parson, New York.

I am entranced with your book, Historic Long Island. Julian McGill, Mattituck.

I find the Forum still as indispensable as my morning coffee. Wilson L. Glover, Southold.

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Long Island Evangelines

THE following document which I copied some years ago will thrill those who have read Longfellow's poem on Evangeline. Long Island had a part in caring for some of those "neutral French", as attested by this old document addressed to "the Magistrates of Brookhaven":

Suffolk County: Pursuant to an order of His Excellency Sc. Hardy

In Council of the Sixth Day of May 1756.

I have Rec. this Day thirty-six Neutral French, ten of which is allotted for your township. You are Directed and Required to Receive the Family Allotted to your town and to give order that they be lodged and Furnished with provisions and that no abuse or ill usage be offered them. And that the Government may be put to as little charge as possible, you are to use your endeavors to find employment for the people, so that they may be enabled Wholly or in part to maintain themselves and that you keep accounts of the Monies I shall Remit . . . further Necessary to expend, and transmit the same to his Excellency, As soon after the 25th of this Month As May be. In order to be then provided for by the General Assembly.

George Muirson.

I had been told that the "neutral French" consisted of one family, Francis Commo, his wife and eight children. In the Brookhaven Town Records it states that William Buchanan and family were allowed to live in "ye Town house called ye French house". A doctor's day-book of that time mentions making calls on the Frenchman's wife.

I've always been interested in my first Long Island ancestor, Selah Strong. But I knew little about him beyond the fact that he came from New England and registered his ear-mark in Brookhaven Town in 1699, married Abigail Terry of Southold in 1702, bought land from Thomas Clarke in 1703 in Setauket, and built his house there (later, the old part of Roe's Tavern), also the fact that he had ten

Kate W. Strong

children (five boys and five girls), and that he died at the age of fifty-one. These were bare facts, so I was delighted when a friend lent me the following old document, which made him seem more real in a way:

To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, know ye that Selah Strong of Brookhaven in ye county of Suffolk and in ye province of New York, for Diverses good Causes and Considerations moving, hath Remised, Released, and Forever Quitt Claimed . . . for myself and my heirs . . . fully and clearly . . . unto Thomas Strong of ye town and county aforesaid,

in his full and peaceable possession . . . and to his heirs and assigns forever, one share of meadow lying on ye East Side of Mounmiserly Neck at a place caled the old harbor, laid out in li of a share of meadow on ye old feald beach, and a lot of land in ye East Division of long lots laid out in ye year 1735 being number 20, and half a lot in ye same Division being number 30, and a half lot in ye same Division being number 36 . . . so that neither the said Selah Strong nor his heirs nor any other person or persons for him or them or in his or their names . . . shall by any way or means hereafter have claim, challenge, or demand any

Continued on next page

Village House, Orient

One of the chief summer attractions at the east end of the island for Long Islanders as well as tourists and vacationists is Orient's Village House, the headquarters and museum of the Oysterponds Historical Society. The one time homestead of Augustus Griffin, author of Griffin's Journal, the building was acquired several years ago by the Society which has since built up an excellent display of early Americana including many items in the crafts and arts characteristic

of colonial days at the east end of the island.

Village House will open for the season July 1 and will be open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons from two to five until the end of October. The village of Orient, once known as Oysterponds, is in Southold town which was founded in 1640. The Old First Church of Southold village is the State's earliest English church just as Southold and Southampton, also founded in 1640, are the State's two oldest towns.



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Long Island Evangelines

Continued from page 129

Estate, Right, or Titel, or interfere in the premises or any part or parcel thereof.

They and every heir of them shall be utterly excluded and barred forever by these presents, and also ye said Selah Strong and his heirs hath Remised and Released the said Mannor, Lands, Tennements, and other premises with Appurtenances to the said Thomas Strong and his heirs, to his and their own proper use and uses in manner from above specified. Posted this fourth day of October Anno Dom 1736. Sind, Seald, and Delivered in presents of: Benjamin Strong, Mary Strong.
Selah Strong.

"Mark" Hits the Spot

"Mark!" is the title of an "Autobiography of Forty Years Shooting Experiences" in the Mackay family. That many of these experiences occurred on historic Gardiner's Island will add to its interest for Long Islanders. Edmund Gilligan, Out of Doors editor of the Herald Tribune, wrote that "the handsome volume contains a really fascinating account of three generations of a sporting family."

There was no more famous shot in the Golden Age of the early 1900's than Clarence H. Mackay of Harbor Hill, Roslyn. The stories of some of the shoots on Gardiner's Island are historic. The diaries relating to these shoots, life on Gardiner's Island during twenty years of occupancy under lease from the Gardiner family and then episodes of entertaining prominent guests—have all been blended into this interesting volume by the only son, John W. Mackay.

The author has added stories of his own childhood and his first attempts at Quail shooting in Jamestown, North Carolina at his father's famous property, Deep River Lodge, as well as descriptions of shooting Grouse in Scotland, a mixed bag in Ireland, Duck in Louisiana, Snipe in South Carolina, and flighted Duck on Long Island and finally the establishment of his own shooting place on Patience Island in Narragansett Bay in 1939.

It is at Patience Island that the second and third generations of the Mackay family enjoyed what may be the last private island shooting

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"Mark" Hits the Spot

Continued from page 130

preserve in this part of the country.

The author has dedicated his book to the younger generation, with the idea of encouraging and giving valuable assistance to those who want to learn the sport of shotgun shooting as well as the art of dog training for their outdoor hobby, even though in the future the commercial game farms may be the only means of enjoying this sport near great population centers.

"Mark!" should interest all sportsmen who go out for either upland birds or ducks . . . as well as those who train their dogs to bring in the bag.

The book is published by Coward-McCann Inc. and sells at \$10 postpaid. Orders, with remittance, should be sent to John W. Mackay, Glen Cove Road, Roslyn, N. Y.

Recalls Yacht Races

In the April number of the Forum Mr. H. P. Horton and Capt. Eugene S. Griffing have furnished those who are interested in yachts or working vessels, with plenty of interesting reading matter. The famous trans-Atlantic yacht race of 1866 is of particular interest to this writer as will be explained later.

Pierre Lorillard, Jr., owner of the Vesta, and George and Franklin Osgood, owner of the Fleetwing, after many arguments as to which was the faster yacht, had wagered \$30,000 on a race from Sandy Hook to the Needles, the finish to be when the lighthouse on the Isle of Wight was abeam, time allowances to be waived. James Gordon Bennett, Jr., owner of the New York Herald, when he heard about the race wanted to enter his Henrietta, and did after signing the agreements. The race was to be started on Thursday, December 11, blow high or blow low. The yachts made a beautiful start, and it was so cold that the spray froze as it hit the decks. When last seen the Henrietta was falling astern of the others. Vesta, the only centerboard yacht, led all of the way until the day before sighting land, when came a serious blunder of her navigator in not making allowances for the Runnels Current, which caused the yacht to fall to leeward of the Scilly Islands, and by a further blunder she ran past her port.

On Christmas Day 1866 the Hen-

Continued next page

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Recalls Yacht Races

(Continued from Page 131)

rietta passed Bishops Rock. She won the race, having sailed 3,106 miles in 13 days, 21 hours and 55 minutes. Vesta, last arrived, sailing 3,144 miles in 14 days, 6 hours and 50 minutes.

Twenty-seven years after that famous race the writer came to Greenport to work for Samuel P. Hedges. At that time the hull of

the Vesta, with her mass still standing, was laid up on blocking in the Smith and Terry shipyard, now the Greenport Basin and Construction Co. Mr. Hedges had a boiler-making shop on the east side of Main st., and the Vesta was up against that building. She was still there in May 1896 when I left Greenport and I do not know when or how she was disposed of.

In August 1903 the writer from the deck of the Steamer Shinnecock witnessed one of the races for the American Cup between the Reliance sailed by Charlie Barr, and the Shamrock III. That race failed to finish for lack of wind and when called off by the expiration of the time limit the Reliance was far in the lead. The story of that race appeared in the Forum a few years ago.

The writer has often seen some of the captains named, particularly Capt. Norman Terry, and Capt. Bill Dennis. He has also seen The Grayling owned by Latham A. Fish. Bill Dennis was sailing the Amorita, a schooner yacht, and later he sailed one of the trial yachts to select a Cup defender. That was Alexander Cochrane's Vanitie. I do not recall Capt. Charlie Burns, but do remember Capt. John Burns who was on the New York-Sag Harbor steamers Shelter Island and Montauk.

John Tooker, Babylon

My husband and I, both being Long Islanders, enjoy the Forum very much. He has worked at the fish factories at Promised Land and as an engineer on the fishing boats. Mrs. Frank R. Leek, Patchogue.

From L. I. Whaling Stock

I had an own uncle, my father's oldest brother, James Horace Fanning, who sailed several times on

Continued on next page

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From L. I. Whaling Stock

Continued from Page 132

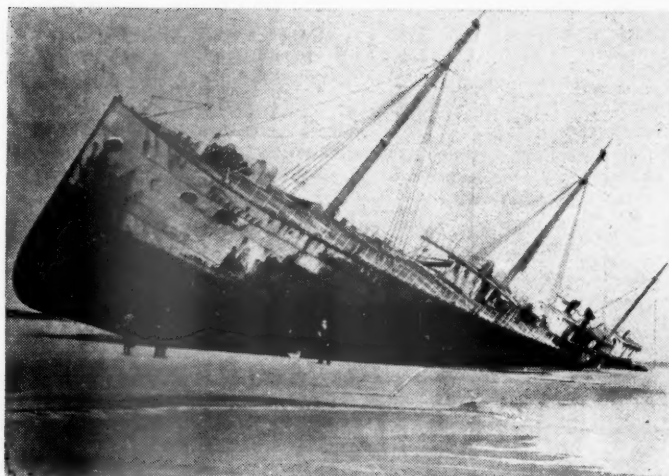
whaling voyages from Sag Harbor and was away for as much as two years at a time. His stories of these voyages were very interesting. Later in life he took up farming, a mile east of Southampton village, and lived to the ripe old age of nearly 90 years.

W. E. Fanning
Brooklyn

More About the Roda

I enjoyed reading of the stranding of the British steamship Roda (not Rhoda) on Jones Beach on February 13, 1908, in the June Forum. You may be interested in the letter which the officers of the Roda sent to the members of the Jones Beach Life Saving station in appreciation of the services which they rendered the ship. Also enclosed are several photos taken at the time of episode.

The letter, dated February 16, three days after the stranding, was addressed "To the Coxswain and members of the Jones Beach

**The Roda on Jones Beach**

L. S. S." It reads as follows:

"We the undersigned members of the crew of the British S.S. Roda, now stranded on Jones Beach, Long Island, beg to express our appreciation of the gallant conduct of the boat's crew employed in rescuing us from the above mentioned

vessel on the morning of the 13th of February 1908 in very heavy weather and under exceptional circumstances. We must say that your conduct on this occasion is worthy of the greatest praise and the manner in which the rescue

Continued next page

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The Roda on Jones Beach

Continued from page 133

was carried out worthy of American seamen.

"We also thank you for your kindness and hospitality accorded us while ashore in Life station, and assure you we will never forget it. We trust you will accept this our humble way of expressing our appreciation in the spirit in which it is given.

"G. J. Taylor, 1st Mate; B. W. King, 2nd Mate; Wm. M. Morris, 1st Engineer; C. E. Mongoe, 2nd Eng.; R. Hobson, 3rd Eng.

"N. W. J. Bevan, Master."

Among the photos is one of the Jones Beach Life Saving crew taken in 1908, shortly after the stranding of the Roda. From left to right they are Albert Ketcham and George Robbins of Amityville, Melvin Austin and Captain Steve Austin of Copiague, William Austin of Amityville, Isaac Henry of Copiague and Riley Raynor of Freeport.

As the Forum stated, the vessel could not be moved and became a total wreck. Many sailing parties went to the beach to see the vessel which lay in so close that at low tide people could climb to her deck. The remains of the Roda are still visible from shore under favorable conditions.

Leslie W. Ketcham
Amity Harbor

Note: Mr. Ketcham is the grandson of Albert Ketcham, shown in the photograph of the Jones Beach crew.

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Jones Beach L. S. Crew

There is a postscript to the story of the Roda. In 1911 the steam lighter Howard arrived at the scene, with a force of nine men who planned to remove copper ore from the hold of the Roda. During the operation the Howard dragged

her anchor in the squall and ended up on the outer bar. Again the Jones Beach crew showed its metal by making two trips to the stranded lighter through heavy seas to bring the nine men ashore safe and sound. Editor.

Historic Gardiner's Island

Descriptions of life in its old Manor House and accounts of experiences afield when this 300-year estate was leased as a Shooting Preserve to Clarence H. Mackay of Roslyn, L. I., together with numerous pictures of family and guests, make

"MARK!"

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A Home That Was

This photo, taken some years ago by George E. Hart of Wading River, shows what can happen to a home of ancient vintage when left to the ravages of time. Mr. Hart writes in part as follows:

This very old habitation was on the property which nearly thirty years ago I purchased from the heirs of Mr. Ralph Peters, one time president of the LIRR. The family of Mrs. Edith Hallock, a neighbor, had once lived in this dwelling. However, she knew nothing about its past but believed that it had been built by the original grantee to make this grant binding and legal. She cited other similar cases in the neighborhood.

The structure, though once a home, contained no windows, no stairs nor any evidence of sawed timber. The only metal used in its construction was in the hand-made nails. It had grey clay floors, and four-foot long split red cedar shingles, some of which I used on my present home. The old house had a corner cupboard and its chimney was of crude hand-shaped clay bricks, with mortar of the same material.

I planned to renovate the place but during some blasting the chimney fell and the woodwork was beyond repair.

Judge Lansing No Hempsteadite

In my Bridgehampton Library story (June issue) the gremlins shuffled the type around so that where Burroughs tried to get Woolworth indicted for libel before the court at Riverhead, I am made to say that Judge John Lansing was from Hempstead.

Having spent many years in Albany I knew that he was of a family long prominent there in municipal and State political affairs. Rather Nathaniel Lawrence, the attorney general, was from Hempstead.

Lansing was born at Albany in 1754 and began the study of law in 1774. He served as secretary to Gen. Phillip Schuyler; then was mayor of Albany and member and speaker of the Assembly.

In 1793, while holding court in Riverhead at the time in question, he was a justice of the Supreme Court by appointment of Governor George Clinton. In 1804, while Chancellor, the highest place on the judicial bench of the State, he was nominated for Governor by the anti-Federalists or Jeffersonian Republicans. He first accepted and then declined the nomination, Morgan Lewis defeated Aaron Burr



Last Photo of House Taken by Mr. Hart

running independent for the governorship. This was Burr's Waterloo.

In 1829 Lansing left his hotel at New York City to mail a letter on the Hudson River steamer for Albany and was never seen thereafter. Thurlow Weed said he was murdered and indicated that property prompted the crime, and that the heirs of the murderer profited by it. Weed died in 1882. It was suggested that Lansing's death may have been caused by an irresistible longing to trace things to their cause.

Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood

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The Phantom Schooner

Early on a foggy morning in April 1860 Daniel Petty and Samuel Hedge left Fire Place on Carman's River for the sand-flats across Bellport Bay to pick up flat (single) oysters and a mess of flatfish (bay flounders today). They rowed an open 16-foot fishing skiff, counting on a SW wind to bring them back by using the small sprit-sail which lay on the thwarts wrapped around its short mast and sprit.

Having rowed by dead reckoning until they heard the soft slap of the surf on the ocean strand beyond the dunes, which told them that they had reached the flats, Daniel got out his eel-spear, bent spoon-shape for picking up the single oysters, while Samuel equipped himself with a horsefoot iron two-tined, for spearing flatfish. They then pushed the skiff beachward until they sighted the first low bogs, the meadow beyond and still further to the south the beach dunes as the rising sun burned out the fog.

Working diligently, they had gotten a good "jag" of oysters and two clam-baskets of flat-fish when Daniel suddenly called his friend's attention to the topmasts of a schooner, to the east of Old Inlet, showing above and beyond the dunes. Reaching the meadow, they pushed an oar butt into the sod, tied the skiff and made their way across the beach to the ocean. There they beheld a beautiful little schooner which had drifted in over the outer bar at high tide and now lay gently nodding in the low surf with her bowsprit over the strand.

Seeing no sign of life aboard, they called but, receiving no reply, they reached the bobstay and swung themselves up and over the foot-ropes and gained the vessel's deck. They found the jib and foresail up and flapping from the motion of the waves, there being little or no wind and the schooner being completely afloat. Going aft and finding a hatch partly open, they looked into the hold. The schooner was light, with no ballast and no sign of water inside. Going down into the cabin, they found everything in order, with breakfast partly prepared even to the skillet holding cooked sausage and glowing embers of hard wood in the stove.

True to the spirit of their day, the two men, with no thought of salvage or even of taking a souvenir, would have taken the vessel to safe anchorage offshore, but they had no means of returning to the

Continued next page

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The Phantom Schooner

Continued from page 136

beach after doing so. Having noted the schooner's name, Sea Lark, they lost no time in getting back to Fire Place across the bay from which little settlement a group of volunteers was soon accompanying them to the beach.

Meanwhile, before they reached the beach, a northwest wind sprang up, evidently filling the Sea Lark's jib and foresail and setting her free, for when the party arrived there was not a sign of the vessel as far as the eye could see. The "lark" had flown, and no word was ever again heard of her as far as Daniel Petty and Samuel Hedge knew.

Capt. Wilbur Corwin
Bellport

Note: There have been other instances of vessels being stranded in Long Island waters, with no trace of their owners. In January of 1901 a 400-ton schooner was found off Orient Point lying on her beam ends. The lifesaving crew took charge of her and found nobody aboard nor any trace of ownership.

"A Fine Folk Flavor"

From the President's Page of the Spring 1957 New York Folklore Quarterly, we quote:

"News items of interest outside the city will also attract considerable attention. Paul Bailey, of Amityville, has put together a volume of 'Historic Long Island in Pictures, Prose and Poetry'. The prose and poetry came from the author - editor - historian - publisher's own pen, but the pictures come from many sources. His subjects—Indians, Captain Kidd, whaling, wrecking, and others—have a fine folk flavor, and Mr. Bailey believes that history need not be solemn but can even be a source

Continued back cover

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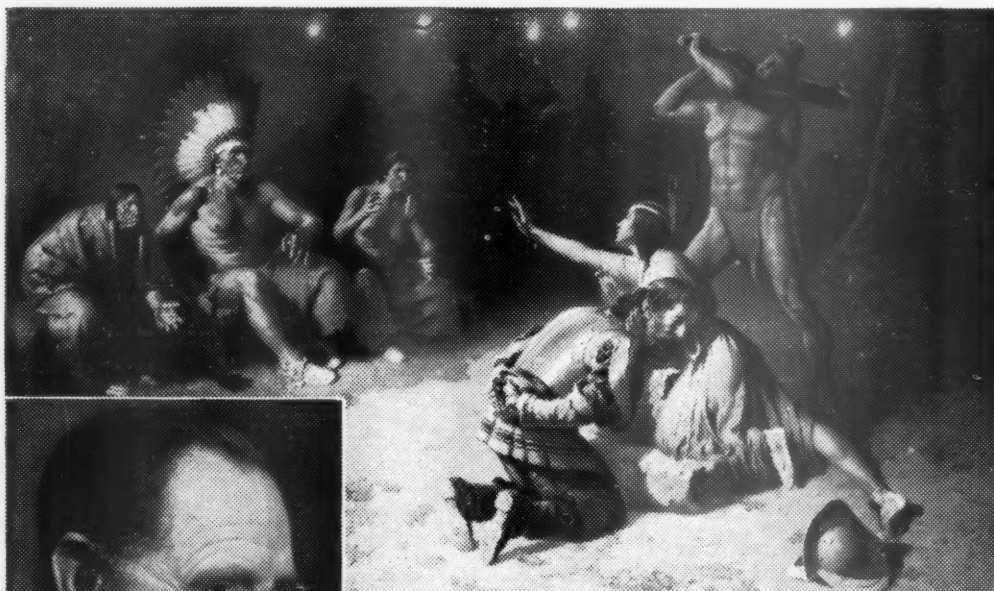


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Historic Moment at Jamestown Relived in Painting by W. R. Leigh



"Pocahontas," the Rescue of Captain John Smith

JAMESTOWN and the crowds of tourists that the Festival celebration of its 350th anniversary is bringing to that area will recall with greater significance than ever previously the dramatic part Pocahontas, the beautiful Indian girl, played in the establishment of this first English settlement in America. Added to this romantic situation it is sometimes overlooked that the late William Robinson Leigh, N. A., (co-founder with his wife of the Traphagen School of Fashion in New York), who re-created the famous scene of Pocahontas and Captain John Smith pictured above, was a direct descendant of this truly American heroine. This picture is now the property of the Woolaroc Museum in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, founded by the oil magnate and art patron Frank Phillips, and left by him to the State of Oklahoma. Whether you go to Jamestown or not, it is indeed worthy of a patriotic pilgrimage to see W. R. Leigh's conception of Captain John Smith's rescue by Pocahontas. Other Indian and Western paintings by Leigh are on exhibition at Grand Central Art Galleries, New York, N. Y., of which he was a member.

William R. Leigh, N. A.

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Continued from page 137

of humor and a cause for laughs."

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